

IN RECOGNITION OF STRATFORD
PORTUGUESE HALL

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Stratford Portuguese Hall Association on its 100th anniversary of service to our community.

The Stratford Portuguese Hall Association was founded in December 1915, when a group of Portuguese immigrants from the Azores Islands assembled to join the Brotherhood of the Divine Holy Spirit in the community of Stratford, California. In 2010, several Portuguese fraternal organizations, including the Brotherhood of the Divine Holy Spirit, consolidated to form the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America.

Stratford Portuguese Hall brought the "Festa" weekend traditions of serving sopas, dancing, and parades to Stratford for the first time in 1916. The celebrations can be traced back to medieval Portugal when Queen Isabel made offerings of food and festival to the people in 1296. Since 1916, these Portuguese traditions have been shared with the community of Stratford. The goal of the "Festa" is to honor the past, celebrate the present, and encourage the future, while celebrating the Portuguese culture.

To reach a 100-year milestone is a remarkable achievement, and Stratford Portuguese Hall Association has had to overcome many challenges to reach this point, including a devastating fire that destroyed the Hall in 2003. However, the Hall was able to meet the challenges it was presented with, and continues to serve our community today. As the son of Portuguese immigrants, I am proud of this incredible achievement.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Stratford Portuguese Hall on their 100th anniversary and wishing them a happy "Festa" this year.

IN HONOR OF COACH DAVID
POLLARD

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a man of purpose, sincerity, and high character, Coach David Pollard. Sadly and tragically, Coach Pollard passed away on April 18, 2016, as a result of a senseless accident. His funeral services were held on Sunday, April 24, 2016 at 3 pm at Cascade Hills Church in Columbus, Georgia.

Coach Pollard was born on March 28, 1980 in Columbus, Georgia to the union of Terry and Sandra Pollard Render. He was a 1998 graduate of Shaw High School and 2002 graduate of Albany State University with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. He was pursuing a Master's Degree in Psychology from Columbus State University.

He was a highly respected educator and coach with stops as a community coach at Jordan Vocational High School and he was

serving as a teacher and the Head Baseball Coach at George Washington Carver High School at the time of his passing.

George Washington Carver once said, "How far you go in life depends on your being tender with the young, compassionate with the aged, sympathetic with the striving and tolerant of the weak and strong. Because someday in your life you will have been all of these." Coach David Pollard understood these lessons very well.

He dedicated his life to helping others—especially our most precious resources—young people. He used the season of his life to help others to reach their full potential. He was dedicated to his craft as both a teacher and a coach. His engaging personality and steadfast faith in God as a member of Central Baptist Church made him a person that was admired and respected by all that came in contact with him. Coach Pollard was universally respected by his peers in the baseball coaching fraternity. He was loved by his players, students and colleagues. But, he knew that his life would be measured not by wins and losses on a sports field but by the difference he made in the lives of his students and players.

We all can learn so much from the life of Coach David Pollard. We must live everyday as if it were our last. Treat all people with dignity and respect and make a difference in the lives of others.

His greatest role in life was that of a dedicated husband and father. Just as he demonstrated a great love for people, he demonstrated an even greater love for his family.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join my wife, Vivian and me, along with more than 730,000 people of the Second Congressional District in extending condolences to his wife, Adrienne, his daughter Joy and his entire family. "To God Be the Glory" for the life of Coach David Pollard for his contributions to the betterment of humankind.

TRIBUTE TO JACQUES 'JACK'
YEAGER

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to the remarkable Jacques 'Jack' Yeager who passed away in California on Wednesday, April 20, 2016. Jack was a pillar of the community in Riverside, California, and he will be deeply missed.

Born in Riverside in 1921, Jack went to local schools and graduated from Poly High School in 1939. While attending college at UC Berkeley, Jack left school to join the U.S. Navy Seabees and eventually helped build airports throughout the South Pacific during World War II. Jack eventually returned home to join the family construction business, E. L. Yeager Construction Company, which was founded by his father. At Yeager Construction, Jack worked alongside his brothers, Dick and Gene, and played an important role in the growth and success of the company. Yeager Construction was responsible for building many significant highway and other construction projects in Southern California and around the country. I had the privilege of working together with Jack on a number of projects and

causes over the years, and felt fortunate to see his passion and dedication to improving our community first-hand.

In 1948, Jack Yeager married Mary Barbara Gibbs and the couple had two sons and three daughters. Mary passed away in 1990. Later, Jack would marry Helen Hays, who died in 2009. As an active member of his community, Jack participated in a number of organizations, often in a leadership role, including: Co-founder and member of the Monday Morning Group, Board Member of the Riverside Community Hospital Foundation, Board Member of the UC Riverside Citizens University Committee, member of the Riverside County Transportation Commission, Board Member of the March Field Museum Foundation, and Board Member of the UC Board of Regents.

The way in which Jack lived his life should serve as reminder that the power of an individual with drive, perseverance and a strong work ethic can do great things. His dedication to his work, family, and community are a testament to a life well lived and a legacy that will continue. I was proud to call Jack my friend and I will deeply miss him. I extend my condolences to Jack's family and friends; although Jack may be gone, the many incredible contributions he made to our region and the country remain and will never be forgotten.

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN
GENOCIDE

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to remember the Armenian Genocide, which began 101 years ago this month.

In nearly a decade of terror that followed, the leaders of the Ottoman Empire systematically exposed the Armenian people to torture, starvation, abduction, deportation, and mass killing. More than 1.5 million innocent Armenian children, women, and men were murdered. And millions more were expelled from their historic homeland.

All nations and peoples have a responsibility to recognize this tragedy and the reverberations it has caused for succeeding generations. Unfortunately, the historic fact of the Armenian Genocide has all too often been obscured, downplayed, or simply rejected.

As an international community, we must properly account for this historic crime, move towards peace and reconciliation in the region, and help those who carry the scars of this atrocity to heal.

The United States owes a responsibility to the victims and their descendants to publicly call the events of 101 years ago genocide. And our government should demand that Turkey—our NATO ally—acknowledge its historic responsibility for this crime.

On this somber occasion, we should remember and pray for the victims, those who survived, and the Armenian community around the world that honors its ancestors by doggedly pursuing the truth. And, as Americans, we must once against reaffirm our resolve to prevent genocide.